



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Blue Dogs Endorse Bipartisan SAFE Commission Act**

*Members will work to establish commission to reform spending, reduce deficits*

Washington, DC – Today, members of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition announced their official endorsement of the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act (H.R. 1557), bipartisan legislation that sets a timeline for Congress to act on the nation's long-term fiscal crisis. The Blue Dogs hailed the SAFE Commission Act, long-championed by Tennessee Representative Jim Cooper, as a necessary step to ensure the nation's long term fiscal sustainability.

"I believe that the greatest threat to our nation's economic security is our long-term fiscal imbalance. A fiscal reform commission will help Congress face these tough issues. Blue Dog support for this commission is crucial for its passage," said **Representative Jim Cooper** (D-TN), Vice-Chair of the Blue Dog Budget and Financial Services Task Force.

The SAFE Commission Act, which creates a BRAC-style commission to reform the nation's spending and taxes, was reintroduced by U.S. Representatives Jim Cooper (D-TN) and Frank Wolf (R-VA) in March and currently has 100 cosponsors, 52 Democrats and 48 Republicans.

"There are two things that Congress can do right now to begin reducing deficits and put the country back on a fiscally sustainable path. One is to reinstate the statutory pay-as-you-go rules that were successful in bringing about budget surpluses in the 90's, and the other is to establish a fiscal commission that has the ability to reform spending and taxes in the event that Congress fails to act," said **Representative Jim Matheson** (D-UT), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications. "The growing debt is not only a threat to our future economic prosperity, but to our national security; we have a responsibility to address this problem now."

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The Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act would create a 16-member panel comprised of the White House OMB Director and Treasury Secretary; four members appointed by the Senate Majority Leader and four appointed by the Speaker of the House; three appointed by the House Minority Leader and three appointed by the Senate Minority Leader. No more than four Members of Congress could sit on the commission. It would be tasked with holding public meetings around the country and then submitting a report that balances long-term spending and revenue scenarios for the nation. If Congressional leaders fail to introduce their own proposal, the SAFE Commission's legislative proposal is automatically brought to the House floor. If passed, it is sent to the Senate for similarly expedited consideration.

*The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 52 members of the Blue Dog Coalition. For more information, visit the Blue Dog Website at <http://www.house.gov/melancon/BlueDogs/>.*

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